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COUNTRY ~~Western Germany~~ REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1

TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Troop Training Grounds 25X1

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT July and 1 to 15 August 1952

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 19 September 1952

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. During the period from 1 to 8 August 1952, training with 76.2-mm field guns, rocket launchers, 37-mm AA guns and about 50 x 85-mm mortars was observed at the Templin (N 54/V 81) troop training grounds, in the vicinity of Camp Hammelspring. Firing with live ammunition from rifles and machine guns and a driving school with the student drivers wearing gas masks were also observed. During the period from 9 through 15 August, detachments consisting of up to 60 men carrying small arms and field equipment and wearing gas masks marched out. Training with 85-mm mortars, 37-mm AA guns and rocket launchers was continued in the area south of the cemetery at Hammelspring. On 9 August, four JS-1 tanks [REDACTED] left the camp toward Vietmannsdorf. On 15 August, a convoy of 40 vehicles occupied by about 250 men and armored scout car No 32 and the armored personnel carriers [REDACTED] entered Camp Hammelspring. [REDACTED]

2. At 8 p.m. on 30 July, a convoy of 50 trucks occupied by personnel and towing 76.2-mm field guns, 120-mm mortars and a field kitchen and armored scout cars [REDACTED] left Templin toward Hammelspring. [REDACTED]

The trucks proceeded toward Camp Hammelspring. At 7:30 p.m. on 14 August, a train loaded with 50 used [REDACTED] trucks left the Templin railroad station toward Uberswalde (N 53/V 08). The trucks had come from [REDACTED]

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25X1\* [REDACTED] in early August, [REDACTED] two-story barracks buildings, each about 150 meters long, were being built in forest section No 240 south of Ja p. Vogelsang. The buildings were about 75 percent completed. (2) 25X1 25X1

3. [REDACTED]

4. During the period from 23 July to 12 August, [REDACTED] vehicle traffic between Camp Vogelsang and Zehdenick was light. Only small detachments of soldiers were seen practicing in the vicinity of the camp. On 29 and 31 July, two barges loaded with sections of prefabricated houses and building equipment were being unloaded in Zehdenick. According to [REDACTED] the material had come from Potsdam and was to be sent to the wooded area near Brunewald, east of Vogelsang railroad station. The material was hauled away by trucks [REDACTED] At 5 p.m. on 30 July, 2-30 tanks [REDACTED] were proceeding on the Storkow-Kappe (east of Zehdenick) road toward the south. 25X1 25X1

5. The cantonment previously observed on the eastern bank of the Grossvactorsee(lake) was still being extended toward the east and, on 2 August, had reached forest section No 59. Sections of prefabricated houses continuously arrived in this area. [REDACTED] the prefabricated houses had come from Camps Vogelsang and Karmelspring. 25X1

6. In early July, work on the construction of another cantonment was started 1 km north-northwest of the Grossvactorsee. Soviet officers were repeatedly observed surveying in the area west of this point. Prior to early July, about 20 low wooden buildings had been erected south of the Zehdenick(lake). Soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia were seen there.

7. In early July, a lane, about 25 meters wide, was cut through the woods from the railroad line south of the Vogelsang railroad station. [REDACTED] a railroad line leading into the interior of Schortheide (heath) was to be built there. (1) Prior to 24 July, [REDACTED] the foundations for two blocks of barracks buildings, each of them 50 x 12 meters, were being excavated in forest sections Nos 241 and 242 northwest of the Vogelsang railroad station. [REDACTED] the Soviet construction headquarters supervising this project was located in Fuerstenberg (N 54/U 52). [REDACTED] the progress of the work was checked twice a week by some officers. The project was being built by the Baununion Ost in Potsdam. The Baununion Ost had given orders that all construction work was to be discontinued in the fall of this year, no matter whether the project was completed or not. [REDACTED] other barracks installations were scheduled to be constructed north of Schuetzenfliege. At present, about 400 workers were employed at this point. The workers were quartered in low wooden buildings near the Vogelsang railroad station. The completion date for these new barracks installations was fixed for about 1 January 1954. (2) 25X1 25X1 25X1

8. In early July, [REDACTED] north of Gross Schoenebeck. The range bordered on forest sections Nos 66 through 80, 120 through 122 and 145 through 147. 25X1

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- 25X1 9. During the period from 17 July to 9 August, a troop camp was observed in the wooded area southwest of Grossvaeter. This camp bordered on forest section No 65 to the west. Twelve JS tanks camouflaged with branches were seen there. From the tank tracks observed, [ ] inferred that the unit had arrived from the east on the Gross Doellnsee-uckorsee road. Four armored scout cars and 200 tents with a capacity of 6 to 8 men each were also seen there.
- 25X1 10. In early July, an engineer unit occupied a cantonment of about 35 low wooden buildings in the southern section of the western bank of Jollinsee (lake). Numerous officers, sidecar motorcycles, pontoons and surveying equipment were seen there. About 800 workers with 20 motor saws were engaged in clearing a wooded area of about 2,750 acres. [ ] the number of workers was to be increased to a total of about 2,000 and their work was to continue for about two years. Four saw frames had been erected for milling the boards to be used for cantonment buildings in the wooded area west of Grossvaeter.
11. Prior to 11 August, [ ] 25X1 in Prenzlau that three large construction projects designated Friedensbau, were under way at the Templin troop training grounds. One of them near Mannerburg, southwest of Templin, was nearing completion; the second construction project was near Gross Doelln, south of Templin; and the third extended from Mannerburg toward the northwest as far as a point near Fuerstenberg.
12. In late July, the restricted area bordered by the localities of Kurt-schlag, Klein Doelln, Grossvaeter, Doborsee, Vietnamsdorf and Grunewald was blocked to through traffic by barbed wire. On 9 August, an exercise by 20 T-34 and JS tanks with an infantry unit was seen at the former Ahlinbsmuehle airfield. [ ] 25X1
- 25X1 13. [ ] barracks buildings were being constructed near Mannerburg by the Bauunion firm in Potsdam. In mid-August, 164 workers were allegedly employed for this project. (2) 25X1
14. Between 6 and 7 p.m. on 26 July, 14 armored personnel carriers, 5 trucks towing 122-mm field howitzers, 39 trucks occupied by personnel including 15 trucks towing AT guns, 2 radio trucks, 5 ammunition carriers loaded with boxes and 2 model BA-64 armored scout cars passed through Templin toward Camp Marnelspring. [ ] 25X1
- [ ] At 6 p.m., another convoy of 25 trucks, each occupied by 12 soldiers, and 19 trucks towing 122-mm field howitzers, passed through the town en route for Marnelspring. At 7 p.m. on 31 July, 5 trucks, each mounting a four-barrel AT gun and occupied by 6 men; 4 trucks loaded with ammunition; 2 field kitchens; and 2 tank trucks passed through Templin toward Marnelspring. [ ] 25X1
- [ ]

Other Events.

- (1) The report indicates that the Templin troop training grounds was still occupied prior to 15 August 1952 by headquarters units of the 4th Gds Recz Army, including elements of the 63d AAA Biv (US) and components

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of the 6th Pz Div and the 25th Tank Div. The training conducted there probably did not exceed battalion level. The motor vehicle convoys seen in connection with this training activity belonged to these units.

- (2) [redacted] it would require about two years to construct the barracks installations. According to the present report and other available information, the barracks installations will be erected near Mannenburg and between Camp Vogelsang and the Vogelsang railroad station. It appears that this project is not a first priority but ranks in importance after the troop camp under construction in the Kurtschlag-Klein Doelln-Debersee-Vietmannsdorf area.

(3)

[redacted]

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- (4) Information on the troop camp under construction in the Kurtschlag-Klein Doelln-Debersee-Vietmannsdorf area was reported previously. It is believed that this camp is to provide new quarters for the troop units training at the Templin troop training grounds, as the previous quarters of these units at the Hammelspring and Vogelsang camps will probably be included in the area of the barracks installations scheduled to be constructed there. This assumption is supported by the increased utilization for training of the area bordering on the new camp to the south and the recent establishment of a tank target range north of Gross Schoenebeck. The construction of a branch railroad line from Vogelsang, presumably as far as Debersee was previously reported.

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